

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) : Markus GESK et al.
Serial No. : 10/552,281
Filed : July 12, 2006
For : METHOD FOR PRODUCING AND SECURING AN APERTURED DISK
Examiner : James S. Hogan
Art Unit : 3752
Confirmation No. : 2007

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office via the Office electronic filing system on July 15, 2008.

Signature: /Elizabeth Tretter/
Elizabeth Tretter

RESPONSE

SIR:

In response to the Office Action of April 17, 2008, (the three-month response date for which is July 17, 2008) kindly reconsider the above-captioned application without prejudice as follows:

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.

No fee is believed to be required in connection with this communication. However, if any fee is required, please charge to Kenyon & Kenyon LLP Deposit Account, Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 8 to 14 are pending in the present application. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and indicating that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

II. Rejection of Claims 8 to 14 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 8 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,869,032 ("Maier et al.") and U.S. Patent No. 6,039,271 ("Reiter"). It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Maier et al. and Reiter does not render unpatentable the present claims for at least the following reasons.

The issue date of Maier et al., March 22, 2005, is after the February 4, 2004 international filing date of the present application. In addition, the international application, i.e., PCT/DE02/01107, of which Maier et al. is the national stage was not published in English. Accordingly, Maier et al. does not constitute prior art against the present application. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Notwithstanding the above, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Maier et al. and Reiter does not render unpatentable claims 8 to 14 for the following additional reasons.

Regarding claim 8, this independent claim relates to a method for producing and securing an apertured disk for a fuel injector for a fuel-injection system of an internal combustion engine, the apertured disk having an opening contour which ensures a complete passage of a fluid, the method including: a) providing a flat, metallic sheet having a constant thickness; b) reducing a thickness in one region of the sheet by one of impressing and embossing; c) introducing at least one spray-discharge opening in the region having reduced thickness; d) machining the sheet until an apertured disk having predefined outside dimensions is attained; and e) securing the apertured disk on a valve-seat member of the fuel injector in such a way that a lower end face of the valve-seat member overlaps an